

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 17, 20, 24, and 27 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 16-29 are currently pending in the above-identified application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the certified priority document.

Double Patenting Objection

Claims 1-4, 6, 16, 18-19, 21-23, 25-26 and 28-29 are pending and have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,672,330. Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, the Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer which overcomes the rejection.

Other Claim Objections

In numbered paragraph 7 under the heading "Disposition of Claims", claims 5, 17, 20, 24 and 27 were objected to but no reasons for the objection were set forth in the Office Action. In a telephone conference with the Examiner on August 5, 2004 by Applicants' undersigned attorney, it was noted that claims 5, 17, 20, 24 and 27 all

had the same format and the objection appeared only to be to the form of the claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended each of these claims to be in a Markush form. It is submitted that these claims are now allowable. If the Examiner has any further questions or objections regarding these claims, he is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (703) 684-1120.

Amendment to Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended only to provide further clarification. It is submitted that this claim is still allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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